



Success Stories

Farrer Elementary

Farrer Elementary is a new school in Provo, UT, an amalgamation of the children from two closed downtown schools. From the beginning, parents and educators from both neighborhoods wanted to help the community come together into a better, cohesive whole. Over half of the parent surveys mentioned a wish that more sports programs could be introduced in the new school, which the site council agreed would be an effective means of bringing people together.

At the beginning of the school year, Farrer announced that the first Thursday of each month would be "Sports Night." From 6:30 to 8:00 pm, faculty, students, and their families are invited to the school to participate in a variety of fun activities. Each time there is a different competitive tournament for any who wish to play, such as flag football, dodge ball, basketball, and indoor hockey. A variety of equipment such as jump ropes and hula hoops are available for anyone who wants to do something else for a while. We also have the school's mats out and representatives from a local Capoeira studio (Brazilian martial arts/dance) come to teach whoever wishes to learn.

In the last half hour, we bring out healthy snacks of fruits and/or vegetables. There was a large stash of "Farrer" water bottles left over from the previous year when our school was a middle school that we distributed to participants the first few months, and parents donated produce from their gardens. As winter came on, our PE Specialist received a grant from NuSkin that he has been using for new equipment and to buy more water bottles and produce in-season from local stores for the activity. Kids have had fun trying both old favorites and taste testing new foods.

We have had great success getting entire families out and playing together. When the weather is nice, many play pickup games of soccer on the schools' front field. When it is dark and cold out, the school gym and cafeteria are full of people moving around and having fun.